

Big River Journey Spring 2015

What is Big River Journey?

Big River Journey (BRJ) provides river and classroom experiences that connect 4th-6th grade students with the science and heritage of the Mississippi River. BRJ culminates with a riverboat excursion on the Mississippi River featuring hands-on learning stations.

Teachers who sign up for Big River Journey incorporate river-themed activities into their classroom. Pre- and post-trip classroom activities are selected by each teacher from many activity options presented in advance teacher workshops. Big River Journey is aligned with Minnesota Academic Standards.

Field trip description

Big River Journey field trips feature staffed learning stations with hands-on activities on the following topics:

- Aquatic insects & water quality
- River geology
- River ecosystems
- River birds
- Watershed stewardship
- Riverboats & piloting
- Confluence archaeology*
- Floodplain forest*
- Soldier hike*
- Cultural crossroads *

* land-based experiences on one-way trips only

Trips are designed for up to 120 students on one trip.

Field trip location

Mississippi River aboard the Anson Northrup riverboat, traveling between Padelford Landing (Harriet Island, St. Paul) and Fort Snelling State Park.

Field trip dates & times

May 4 - 8, 11-15, and 18-19, 2015. Boat boards at 9:30 a.m. or 11:45 a.m.

- **May 4 - 8 trips** are round trips from Harriet Island, St. Paul. Board at 9:30 (return 11:30) or 11:45 (return 1:45).

Option: Package your round trip BRJ with a Science Museum visit, including Mississippi River Gallery! (\$6/student or \$3 scholarship; contact the museum directly at 651-221-9444)

- **May 11-15 & 18-19 trips** are one-way trips that incorporate a learning experience at Fort Snelling State Park (not "Historic Fort Snelling") as follows:

Either:

* **Board paddleboat at 9:30 at Harriet Island, St. Paul.** Disembark at Fort Snelling State Park (FSSP) for an activity with staff from FSSP or other BRJ partner. Time for a brown bag lunch will be included. The FSSP session will conclude at 1:00 p.m. Your buses will pick up students at the FSSP Visitor Center.

Or...

* **Arrive at Fort Snelling State Park (FSSP) Visitor Center at 10:00** for a land-based session with state park or other partner staff and time for a brown bag lunch. **Paddleboat departure is at 12:00 noon** from FSSP. The trip concludes at 1:45 p.m. at Padelford Landing, Harriet Island, St. Paul, where your return buses will load your students.

Participation requirements

1) Attend a Big River Workshop.

Attendance is **required** of all teachers unless previously attended in past ten years.

Workshop location & dates:

At Fort Snelling State Park Visitor Center (enter park from Post Road, off Hwy 5, just SW of MSP airport)

- **Thur, Feb 5, 2015** (9:00-3:30); or
- **Sat, Feb 7, 2015** (8:30-1:00)

Workshop content:

At the workshop teachers will:

- participate in short demonstrations of supporting classroom activities
- receive Teacher's Guide of science and thematic Mississippi River resource materials
- get oriented to Big River Journey field trip logistics, and introduced to other river-related learning opportunities
- receive Continuing Education certificate

Workshop registration:

Call Mississippi National River and Recreation Area at 651-293-8414 or email Brian_Goodspeed@nps.gov.

Workshop payment:

\$20/person or \$30/school (non-refundable) is requested to help defray expenses. Make check to "Mississippi National River & Recreation Area"; write "BRJ workshop" on memo line. Send to:

*Attn: Brian Goodspeed
Mississippi National River & Recreation Area
111 E. Kellogg Blvd., Suite 105
St. Paul, MN 55101-1256*

2) Preparation & follow-up:

- prepare students for the field trip by conducting science and thematic classroom activities about the Mississippi River (resources provided at workshop)
- organize classes into cooperative groups before trip
- assign groups to a specific learning station rotation (details at workshop)
- complete follow-up activities such as writing, art, and service learning to reinforce and extend field trip learning
- complete and return evaluations



Field trip fee: \$8.93*/student

The Padelford Packet Boat Co. handles field trip payments and will contact you for billing if your school is scheduled for a trip.

Scholarship rate: \$3.93*/student

Schools with at least 50% participation in the free-and-reduced lunch program or 50% students of color qualify. Scholarship eligibility must be verified in writing by your principal. Schools arrange and pay for their own buses. For further information: Brian Goodspeed at 651-293-8414.

*** Includes port fee**



Big River Journey 2015

National & state award-winning
Mississippi River
field trips
since 1996

grades: 4-6

Coordinated by
Mississippi National River & Recreation Area
(National Park Service)
in cooperation with the
Padelford Packet Boat Co.

Program partners
Center for Global Environmental Education
Friends of the Mississippi River
Minneapolis Public Schools
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Minnesota Historical Society
Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
Mississippi River Fund
Padelford Packet Boat Co.
Saint Paul Audubon Society
Saint Paul Public Schools
Science Museum of Minnesota

www.nps.gov/miss/forteachers

- Experience Your America -

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. G-83
ST. PAUL, MN

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
111 East Kellogg Boulevard
Suite 105
Saint Paul, MN 55101-1256



BIG RIVER JOURNEY RESERVATIONS – SPRING 2015

Selections for Big River Journey field trips are made through a drawing that determines scheduling order. To submit your school's request (one per school, please) fax or send this completed form by October 15, 2014.

School _____ **Number of students** (limits: 120/trip, 240/school) _____
School address _____ **City, state, zip code** _____
Contact Person _____ **Contact email** _____
Phone # _____ **Fax #** _____ **Grade(s) (circle):** 4 5 6
Best time to contact _____

Teachers from my school will attend the following Big River Workshops (must fill in teachers' names, or check below):

Thur, Feb 5, 2015 (9:00-3:30) Teachers who will attend: _____
Sat, Feb 7, 2015 (8:30-1:00) Teachers who will attend: _____
I/we have attended workshop previously: _____
All BRJ teachers must be the basic workshop. If all have attended the workshop previously, check here: _____

Are you requesting a scholarship (see eligibility requirements elsewhere in this flyer): YES NO

Reservation scheduling: Schools will be called for scheduling in order drawn starting Oct 19. If you are not reached, a message will be left (if possible), and the next school will be contacted. Your prompt response will ensure best selection of trips. The process usually takes several weeks. When trips are filled, remaining schools will be contacted about other river learning opportunities.

Fax or send this form (or copy) by Oct 15 to:

Big River Journey Reservations
Mississippi National River & Recreation Area
111 E. Kellogg Blvd., Suite 105
St. Paul, MN 55101-1256
Fax: 651-290-3815

To include a Science Museum visit (\$6/student), contact them directly at (651)221-9444.

For further information: Call Brian at 651-293-8414 or email Brian_Goodspeed@nps.gov or visit our website at www.nps.gov/miss or www.nps.gov/miss/forteachers/bjindex.htm